trade policy issues are made known during interactions at the meetings held by the Commerce Ministry from time to time, including at the meeting of the Board of Trade, and these are taken into account while formulating the policies.

Financial Irregularities and FERA Violations by Companies

406. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received evidences of involvement of certain important private companies in financial irregularities including FERA violations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check such violations and to safeguard the interest of share holders in such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Industries in U.P.

407. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any industry around Khurja city of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted or is likely to be conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) At present there is no plan to set up any Central Public Sector Undertaking around Khurja city of U.P.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

408. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is not self-sufficient in the production of coal;

(b) if so, the details regarding the annual growth of coal alongwith the consumption as well as demand in the country;

(c) whether the gap between the demand and availability is likely to be increased during the current financial year;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The domestic production of coking coal of the quality required for metallurgical use is not adequate to meet the domestic demand. Some import of superior grades of coking coal is also necessary for blending purposes on quality considerations. The domestic production of superior grades of non-coking coal is limited. Some mismatch between the demand and availability of non-coking coals also occurs as a result of transport mismatches and due to unanticipated increase in demand.

(b) The annual growth in domestic production and consumption of coal has been as follows:

Year	Annual gwoth in production over earlier year (%)	Annual growth in coal consumption over earlier year in (%)
92-93	3.85	5.3
93-94	3.33	5.1
94-95	3.11	2.3
95-96	6.47	7.5
96-97 (targeted)	6.85	-

The growth in demand as assessed by Planning Commission is given below:

Year	Percentage growth over earlier year
1992-93	4.47
1993-94	4.71
1994-95	(-) 0.20
1995-96	7.26
1996-97	12.84

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Planning Commission has indicated that there would be a gap of 36.35 million tonnes in demand and domestic availability of coal in the country during 1996-97.

(e) Steps being taken to augment domestic production of coal include the following:

(i) Opening up of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(ii) Partial de-regulation of coal prices is likely to improve internal resource generation of coal companies which will enable new projects to be taken up. It will also